

Alzheimer's State Plan Commission
Cultural Competency
Thursday, August 7
4-5 pm

ATTENDEES

Maria Barros (chair)
Jasmin Rimcon (co-chair)
Maria Ceuteio
Emilia Fernandes
Tiffany Edouard
Sadie DeCourcy

MINUTES

The meeting was convened at 4:10 pm by Sadie DeCourcy. Introductions were given and Sadie gave a brief overview of the State Plan and what the Cultural Competency group had been working on and what they hoped to accomplish down the line.

Maria Barros expressed her worry that we are gaining momentum and may lose it with a new Lieutenant Governor. Sadie responded that she hoped having Maria and other community members involved would keep the group moving forward and would meet with the new Lieutenant Governor to let them know how important this work is for Rhode Island. Sadie also said this task force would be described in the transition memos for the new Lieutenant Governor and their staff, so they would have some background to work off.

Maria asked that the group vote to make Jasmin Rimcon a co-chair and she was unanimously approved.

The group then broke down who still needed to be included in the task force and the best way to reach out to them before the next meeting. A suggestion was made that the outreach needs to be in multiple languages as well.

The communities highlighted were (along with who from the task force will recruit):

1. African American Community – Tiffany
2. Chinese – Chinese Association (Roosevelt Ave)- Chinese Nursing Association (Maria Barros will contact for next meeting)
3. Korean – Maria has a coworker and nursing student
4. Southeast Asian Community (Sadie DeCourcy) – CSEA – SEDC
5. Neighborhood (diversity community liaison)- Yasmin to contact Grace Gonzalez
6. Haitian community – (southside) – Eddy St. Church – Tiffany
7. Liberian– Maria Barros
8. Nigerian – Ask Linda

9. Portuguese community – Portuguese Social Club (Maria M. and Maria B) – Portuguese radio talk show
10. Cape Verdian – Marias
11. Muslim- Munir (will ask Linda) – Shaheed and Mohammed
12. Syrian
13. Native American – Lori Almeida (has a friend who is Narragansett) – Brewer St.
14. Hispanic - Jasmin
 - a. Colombian
 - b. Dominican
 - c. Peru
 - d. Argentinian
 - e. Venezuela
 - f. Puerto Rico
15. LGBT - Jodi Glass

FOR EARLY NEXT WEEK

Sadie will send Jasmin a brief about the State Plan and task force information including what the task force hopes to accomplish.

Also to be included in the recruitment letter:

1. Time commitment of one hour
2. Include all meeting times
 - Use for radio as well
 - Dr. Rodriguez
 - Newspapers (Valley Breeze, Pawtucket Times)
 - Newsletters for dioceses (ask Linda)

Language Line Discussion

It was discussed that there needs to be a live resource for all patients no matter which hospital.

There was also support for one language bank in the state and Maria said there is money out there in grants that could help the state fund a language bank.

It was reiterated that many health care facilities ask that the patients bring their own translators and those people are not able to properly translate medical vocabulary or have some issues that may make them not translate exactly for the patient. The task force suggested that relatives should only be used if the patient specifically requests them.

Mini Mental

A mini mental is used right now in Rhode Island and it is geared toward the average American, not culturally appropriate and not able to translate well.

There is a great need in the community for a culturally competent mini mental.

Tiffany suggested that once the website is created, the mini mental should be included along with any references and instructions for how to make them more culturally sensitive.

Maria believes that one could meet the needs of all (set directions, one or more questions)

The new [Caregiver Handbook](#) from the Executive Office of Health and Human Services was discussed. Some inquired as to how many languages it would be translated into and Sadie believed that it might only be Spanish and English. She said she would ask Kathy McKeon from the Dioceses. She also agreed to ask about in future editions including a section about cultural competency.

At the beginning of the meeting, Sadie provided attendees with a handout that outlined the National Standards for Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services in Health and Health Care (CLAS). Maria's main concern was who is actually policing the CLAS? If a health care facility participates in Medicare, then they have to be in compliance with CLAS, but no one is watching over it to be sure they are actually in compliance.

There was also a discussion of the need to raise awareness about sending people home too early from the hospital. Most cultures will not challenge doctor or the hospital. There was a suggestion that using real stories to drive the point home may be the best tool. Maria told a story about her Aunt who refused a pacemaker because of a wrong interpreter. She died subsequently because her heart failed.

There was overwhelming agreement that there needs to be some education in the community about what to ask the doctor and the rights the patient has when getting medical care.

Possible Fact Sheet:

What should a consumer be asking when they go into the doctor?

The next meeting of the task force will be Thursday, September 4 from 4-5 pm at Nursing Placement, 334 East Avenue, Pawtucket.